

Quick Strokes

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Official organ of the Dvorak International Federation. Issued in
June, September, December and March. This is No. 3 of Vol. XI, Whole Number 39.

1984 WINTER

A happy, happy year to all! Phase out the old, phase in the new!

Dvorak keyboard users and operators are assured a happier year than that of their conventional-keyboard-only competitors. They will get more work done without working so hard.

The Seasoned Systems ad on page 3, this issue, strikes the right note. Some may deplore it as too negative. Quick Strokes, on the contrary, applauds it.

We have been waiting for ten years to raise the slogan "Dvorak, the keyboard that works with you and not against you!" Equipment industry salesmen have been tongue-tied. Knowing well that their employers' advertised keyboarded products had a keyboard that was arbitrary, unexplainable, and anti-ergonomic, they had to condemn, at least by implication, the good, honest, diligent, bright students who failed at typing or gave it up or avoided it.

Why? The industry has been waiting for the Dvorak enthusiasts to cohere enough to launch a business, on an economical scale, offering equipment, pretraining, retraining, instructional materials, teacher training, and consultation on the transition.

These functions are the province of small business. Big business stands ready to supply components or complete machines, at quantity discounts. With an acceptable business plan and a talented, reputable management team, seed money can surely be found.

I have sketched my realizable dream. Now you tell me yours, with a curriculum vitae, please. My own c.v.: Name Philip Hunt Davis, unless I use S. K. as middle initials; degrees, B.A. and M.A. (University of Washington, 1947), double graduate major in Spanish and Secondary Education. Experience as a salesman, teacher, translator, printer, editor, and legislative advocate. Chaired the drafting committee for the ANSI X4.22 standard. Publishing and editing Quick Strokes for ten years.

Key Tronic Corporation announces plug-compatible Dvorak keyboard for IBM Personal Computer

Computerworld for 1983 November 14 carries a story on the Key Tronic Model KB-5150D, reported to be plug compatible with the IBM PC. It should sell at retail below \$300. If your dealer pleads ignorance, try the maker, at Postoffice Box 14687, Spokane, Washington 99214.

"Can a Dvorak keyboard for the PC Jr be far behind?" queries Chuck Trier, of the same city. No, we shouldn't think so.

Other wanted products: A series of adapters to be strapped in between keyboard cable and computers of various makes and models; a scheme to bypass built-in conventional keyboards and apply instead a detachable board laid out for Dvorak keying.

Film producer would love to hear

By Victor Kay

I have a DOT computer, which I use in Dvorak via Smartkey program, with Volkswriter word-processing program. I would love to hear from anyone with similar gear. I also have an old Nashua/Savin Wordmaster MS150 (with modified IBM Selectric) word-processing system and would like to use the modified Selectric part as a letter quality printer for my DOT... anyone out there with any advice?

The part of your newsletter I find the most useful is listings of suppliers of goods and services re Dvorak, e.g., modifications, software, etc.

* * *

Mr. Kay does business as Victor Kay Film Productions. His studio is at 12/16 Notts Avenue, Bondi Beach, New South Wales, Australia. Mail address, Postoffice Box 333, Bondi Beach, NSW 2026, Australia.

News from the Dvorak International Federation

By Virginia deGanahl Russell, President
Dvorak International Federation

List Magazine, Popular Computer, Interface Age, PC World and Psychology Today all have December articles on the Dvorak Keyboard. In January the Atlantic Monthly will be discussing the keyboard.

Interest from secretarial schools is booming. The queen of all, Katherine Gibbs, is doing an investigation on the productivity increases of the Dvorak. As well New Hampshire College will begin training in the fall of 1984 both in the graduate and undergraduate levels. Sawyer School in New Jersey is training the handicapped in word processing on the Dvorak.

Wang is offering the Dvorak arrangement on the OIS systems (Word Processing). As with any computer company if we show user demand the keyboard will become a catalog item well publicized as the Wang is.

Any information you may need on the availability of the Dvorak is easily obtained by calling DIF (802) 246-6020 or writing to the Dvorak International Federation, 11 Pearl Street. We are the clearing house for Dvorak information and are able to answer your questions immediately as we keep a file on the now immense list of Dvorak friendly computers.

Typing Tutor and Mastertype are both being rewritten for the Dvorak. These typing games are both available for the Apple, Commodore and the Atari. Again with user demand they can be written for any computer. You must let this office know your needs so that we can let the manufacturers know the interest is there.

The Dvorak International Federation has printed new membership cards. As well we have diplomas for completion of Dvorak training. Training on the Dvorak is now rewarded by a certificate from the Dvorak International Federation. Let us know if you have anyone who you feel should receive a certificate. We will send the qualification requirements to you.

The State of New Jersey under the careful tutelage of Maryhelen Paulick has graduated four new Dvorak typists. They received their DIF certificates at a ceremony in late November. The recipients are: Carol Kent, Ronnette Haynes, Marcy Flemming and Cathy LePaugh. These young women are the beginning of a fine program under the Trenton department of civil service in New Jersey. Reprints of publicity from that occasion are available through the DIF office at 11 Pearl Street, Brandon, VT 05733.

Brian Trask continues to do a very professional interposer conversion on the IBM Selectrics. The feedback we get at DIF has been very favorable. Brian's address is Trask Typewriter Service, Rutland, VT 05701, or contact DIF as we are in touch on a frequent basis.

Have a wonderful Christmas. I hope to meet you in person in the new year.

Bibliographic notes

Cary Lu in *Across the Board*, 1983 April, pages 6 and 7, "Qwerty Forever!", calls the generic Dvorak arrangement "best available alternative." Says Qwerty keyboard design causes excessive errors.

Dave Horton in *Computerworld*, 1983 May 2, page 67. Complaints of difficulty in relearning. Found stroking a and m successively triggered old stroking sequences. Liked "certain" Dvorak combinations but gave up and reverted to convention. Diagnosis: Faint heart ne'er won fair lady.

The above are cited in *Impact: OA* for 1983 June, monthly organ of the Administration Management Society.

John Case in the News and Trends department of *Inc.*, 1983 June, page 43, "A Keyboard Whose Time Has Come". Interview with Patricia Kaplus, word-processing supervisor at Public Employees Retirement System, Portland, Oregon. Quotes Paul Nelson, of Digital Equipment Corporation, and Virginia Russell, of Dvorak International Federation.

Good catches! Belmont Adams, of Scarborough, Maine.

Query from Studio City

An article on the DSK system appeared in the December, 1980, issue of 80 Micro magazine, including a program for converting the TRS-80 Model I computer keyboard. I would like very much to use the DSK system. My computer, however, is a Model III, and I am not acquainted with modifications that are necessary to convert the Model I program.

Can any of your readers assist me with this?

Andrew F. Zarchy, 11034 Wrightwood Place,
Studio City, California 91604

At a Los Angeles computer show, Dvorak-friendly computers

Discovered by Aaron Pollock, of Long Beach, at a computer show in late 1983 November, in Los Angeles, are the following computers, described by him as Dvorak friendly:

Victor Computer, 124 South Beaudry Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90012, telephone 213-629-5666, user-definable keys, removable key caps.

Fujitsu Computer, user-definable keys, removable caps.

NEC Computer, user-definable keys, fixed caps.

Query on Sanyo with Smartkey

Lori Lowe, of Alexandria, Virginia, uses a Sanyo MBC-3000 microcomputer with the Smartkey Dvorak program. She finds that the printout lacks a lower-case z and also h and H. Informed readers, please write helpful suggestions to her at 4109 Arcadia Road, Alexandria 22312, with carbon to Quick Strokes at Post Office Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691.

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Post Office Box 60241
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A novel presentation in a short course for the alternate standard arrangement for alphanumeric keyboards

Designed primarily for self instruction but quite adaptable to classroom use, Pollock, Aaron, *Dvorak Keyboard Typing Short Course*, relies on the Law of Use, another name for which is repetition, or drill.

A thin thing, it nonetheless fills a need. The remainder of the stock of Smith-Corona's *Short Course* for ASK is in a bin at Quick Strokes, the ProSoft Dvorak Tutor needs promotion, so do other tutors on a disk, and the full-length manuals by the late August Dvorak are still something to hope for.

Venders of computers and software should put in a stock of the Pollock course, display it, and recommend it. What customer would not be happier with an easier, faster, better keyboard and a manual to build skill from?

The Pollock Short Course includes several "alphabetizers", short sentences that include each letter on the keyboard at least once. Much drill on the earlier lessons is recommended before the learner tries to write any of these without looking!

For prices and delivery times, Pollock advises contacting Phil Davis, P.O. Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691, telephone 916-372-7372.

Success in eliciting questions in a college class

By Michael Ham

In my computer literacy courses I always bring up the Dvorak keyboard arrangement, since the primary bottleneck on a microcomputer is the keyboard, unfortunately still typically a Qwerty arrangement. People are fascinated, and I offer my standard answers to two typical questions:

"Can you learn the Dvorak arrangement once you already know the standard arrangement?" That's like asking if you can learn tennis once you know badminton — not only can you learn it, it is even easier to learn knowing the other: most of the physical skills are now known, and all you have to do is learn the new arrangement of the keys — and people typically have to learn some keys on any typewriter: the backspace, margin release, tab, etc., are never in the same place on two different typewriters. It takes only a day or two to know the new arrangement there, and only a week or two to know the new arrangement of the Dvorak.

"What if you have to switch back and forth — is that possible?" Just as easy as it is for a musician to be able to play both the flute and the clarinet. It probably will keep you from reaching your personal maximum speed, but you can do it.

* * *

Mr. Ham is a systems analyst now doing work on microcomputer support of educational activities, for American College Testing Program, Iowa City, Iowa.

FOR RENT — Motion picture film, "Motion Study of the Dvorak Simplified Keyboard," 16mm., black and white, silent, 20 minutes. Old but good. View it more than once, the better to appreciate the difference in hand position. \$10 per week. Order from Quick Strokes, Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691.

FOR RENT — Videotape, "Typewriters: Dvorak Made a Better One," narrated by Albert C. Kolb, Carmel (California) Middle School, time 14 minutes and 19 seconds. Narrator and secretary demonstrate on interesting and innovative alternative to the standard keyboard. Motivates student interest in the typewriter and in developing skills. In VHS cassette. Per week \$10. Shipping weight 1 lb., 12 ozs. Quick Strokes, Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691.


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QUICK STROKES is published by Philip Davis, editor; Philip Davis, contributing editor; Virginia deG. Russell; at P.O. Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691; 916-372-7372. Subscriptions in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico \$10 US, to Central America, South America, Africa, Asia, Oceania, and Europe, in an envelope by air, \$14. Subscriptions expire with the March issue.

World headquarters of the Dvorak International Federation is at 11 Pearl St., Brandon, VT 05733. Telephones, 802-247-6020 and 802-247-5759. President, Virginia de Ganahl Russell. Past presidents, Steve Anderson, Salem, Oregon; Thurman Clark, Portland, Oregon; Helen Baldwin, Portland, Oregon; Patricia Wells, Corvallis, Oregon.

About your subscription

Subscriptions to Quick Strokes expire with the volume. A volume ends with the March issue.

Memberships in the Dvorak International Federation expire also in March. A subscription to Quick Strokes is automatic with a DIF membership. Membership is not automatic with a QS subscription, although it is included if you note the DIF dues on your check made out to Quick Strokes.

For directives about forming local Dvorak federations, please write to DIF in Brandon, Vermont, or call the numbers in president's column.

Query on switching

Bruce A. Kauffman, of Gillette, Wyoming, a personal computer user who has worked out his own conversion program and has learned a little Dvorak keying, asks about techniques for learning Dvorak keying and about making the switch.

The best way is in a class, with a teacher. In our experience, teachers will go out of their way to accommodate a student who supplies his own equipment and a starting manual.

If you must resort to solitary self instruction, so be it. You can work up to competence, and then to excellence, in that way, too.

The list of holdover errors that may be expected consists of one item, period for e, and that vanishes after Lesson I. Other holdovers, such as l for p, will occur at long intervals, even after years of steady Dvorak keying.

Apple conversion

For Apple Dvorak software, try International Solutions, P.O. Box 2381, Saratoga, CA 95070.

Erratum in QS 38

Keyswapper 1.4, the Vertex Systems software utility for the IBM PC instead of being "marketed through" the IBM Corporation, as Quick Strokes said in its 1983 Fall issue, page 3, column 1, is, instead, available from that company as well as from dealers and directly from Vertex, 7950 West Fourth St., Los Angeles, California 90048.

For details, write to Vertex, attention Jerry Kaye.

Sources for attachable keyboards

For devices where the impulses flow from key to font through a cable, the conversion to the rational arrangement of characters can be performed by plugging in a Dvorak-arranged keyboard. Suppliers that have come to our attention:

Key Tronic Corp., Bldg. 14-D, Spokane Industrial Park, Spokane, WA 99216.

Maxi-Switch Co., 9697 NW East River Road, Coon Rapids, MN 55433.

Tandberg Data Inc., Labriola Court, Post-office Box 99, Armonk, NY 10504.

For IBM products with this feature, query IBM product centers or other retail outlets.

Dvorak-skilled operators on TV in Oregon

Bursts of typing at terrific paces are heard on an audio tape received recently at Quick Strokes. Barbara Blackburn is the operator.

The sound is from a television broadcast over a Salem, Oregon, station. Voices are those of Ardeth Jerde, manager of the State Farm Insurance Co. word-processing center at Salem, of Blackburn, and of another Dvorak-skilled operator from that center.

Jerde commented on the consistently high performance level of her center, where four of seven operators are at keyboards with the standard (1x4.22-1983) variant of the Dvorak.

All agreed that the newer arrangement is easier on the operator than is the conventional qwerty.

Rational arrangements for foreign languages

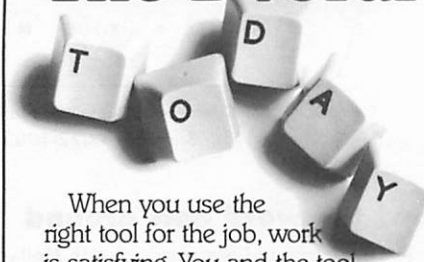
From David R. Miles, of Seattle, Washington, we have seven diagrams for keyboard arrangements for the Cyrillic alphabet, used for Russian and some other Slavic languages, as well as a proposed diagram of his own. Miles, an experienced operator in Russian and English, remarks that any of these diagrams appears to be more rational than qwerty is for English.

The Computer and Business Equipment Manufacturers' Association, Suite 500, 300 First St., NW, Washington, DC 20001, is the sponsor of X3, the American National Standards committee on information processing. X3 is affiliated with TC 95, the international technical committee of similar scope.

BACK ISSUES of Quick Strokes, numbers 37 or 38, \$2.50 each. Earlier issues, in Volumes I to X, by the volume at \$4 per volume. No sales tax. Order from Quick Strokes, P.O. Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691.

THE 1974 JANELLE report, "Eastern Region Trial of the Dvorak Simplified Keyboard," nine pages photocopy. Report of hands-on experience in retraining, qwerty to Dvorak, under Western Electric Corp. auspices, and deemed "inconclusive" at the time, this application foreman the present extensive application in AT&T. \$4.50 at Quick Strokes, P.O. Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691.

Stroke The Dvorak



When you use the right tool for the job, work is satisfying. You and the tool work together. You get the job done right, and you feel a sense of achievement.

But the wrong tool works against you. You manage to get things done, but it's uphill all the way. You're left frustrated and tired.

Today's standard key layout is deliberately hard to use. Devised to keep 19th-century mechanical machines from jamming, it constantly works against you. The result — fatigue and errors.

What's the right tool for communicating with your PC? The Dvorak keyboard. Its natural key layout works with you, giving you the feel of ease and comfort. Your personal productivity rises.

SureStroke is the total Dvorak keyboard solution for the IBM PC. More than a key-mapper, SureStroke powers you as you learn the Dvorak layout. Harnesses your unconscious resources. Gets you up to speed fast.

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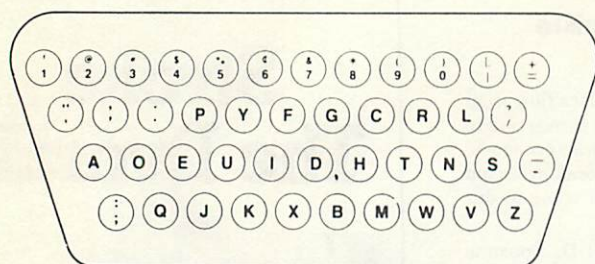
SureStroke includes

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Conforms to American National
Standard X4.22-1983

How! the word gets around

In *Computers and Standards* (North Holland Publishers, Box 211, A 1000 AE, Amsterdam, Netherlands) Volume 2, Number 1, 1983, under "Standards Activities", page 53, we find,

"Increased Efficiency is Aim of Standard for Alternate Keyboard Arrangement. An alternative to the conventional (QWERTY) typewriter keyboard . . . is presented in a new standard just published by the American National Standards Institute. The alternate character arrangement is intended to increase the speed of people who operate typewriters, computers, and word processors and to reduce fatigue."

In a story of about a column and a half, credit as the principal originator of the arrangement goes to the late August Dvorak, identified as in his time a professor of education at the University of Washington.

Virginia Russell, identified as technical editor of the committee that developed the X4.22 standard, contributes a two-paragraph quote, noting the ten-to-one ratio, conventional to alternate arrangement, in finger travel. She notes also that manufacturers, vendors, colleges, and business schools have shown considerable interest in the newly standardized alternate arrangement. She mentions the Apple IIe with its built-in Dvorak arrangement and adds that other computers also have the capability to reconfigure to it.

Marya Repko, of Dalkey, Dublin, Ireland, caught this and sent it in.

Date of the Dan Rather broadcast

CBS Evening News broadcast on 1983 June 22 gave some account of the character arrangement we know as Alternate Standard, Dvorak, or Simplified. This is the Dan Rather program.

The script can be ordered from CBS Television, CBS Evening News, 524 West 57th St., New York NY 10019.

SMITH-CORONA'S SHORT COURSE for the American Simplified Keyboard (ASK) Typewriter, by August Dvorak, now in stock at Quick Strokes, P.O. Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691. Per copy \$5 postage paid. In California, please add 30 cents sales tax. Conforms to AN Standard X4.22.

IN MINT CONDITION — A few copies of the seminal work *Typewriting Behavior*, by Dvorak, Dealey, Merrick, and Ford. Hard cover, 521 pages including index and appendix, it comprises the team's report to the Carnegie Foundation on typing teaching, typing learning, and machine design. \$30 at Quick Strokes, P.O. Box 643, West Sacramento, CA. To California addresses, \$31.80.

STARTING MANUAL FOR ALTERNATIVE KEYING — Titled *Simplified Keyboard Supplement* and written by the late, great August Dvorak and others, it contains Lessons 1 to 5 and 16 to 19.

It merges with any full-length typing manual or with practice material of your choice. Three dollars at Quick Strokes, P.O. Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691. In California, add 18¢ tax.

DVORAK SELECTRIC ELEMENT — Please specify pica or elite type; please specify whether for a Selectric, or a Selectric I or II, or a Selectric III. Arrangement is close to the classic Dvorak, digits reading, left to right 7, 5, 3, 1, 9 for the left hand, and right to left, 8, 6, 4, 2, 0 for the right hand. \$111 dollars at Quick Strokes, P.O. Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691, telephone 916-446-3377. A starting manual, the *Simplified Keyboard Supplement*, is included. Two sheets of 77 half-inch round press-on labels with the alphabet, extra vowels, punctuation, and digits are included. Pairing of digits and special symbols corresponds to the Dvorak Selectric arrangement. Delivery in two weeks after receipt of order and payment. In California, add 6% tax.

Quick Strokes

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